

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CHARTER
CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP
Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, Washington

- 1. Committee's Official Designation:** Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group (CAG).
- 2. Authority:** The original authority for the establishment of the CAG was provided by the Act of October 31, 1994 (Public Law 103-434), and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. Since 1999, the CAG has been established under general agency authority by the Secretary. The establishment of this committee is in the public interest in connection with the duties and responsibilities delegated to the Bureau of Reclamation by the Secretary.
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:** This charter renews the Yakima River Basin CAG that the Act of October 31, 1994 (Public Law 103-434), directed the Secretary of the Interior to create. The CAG provides recommendations to the Secretary and the State of Washington (State) on the structure and implementation of the Yakima River Basin Water Conservation Program.

The basin conservation program is structured to provide economic incentives with cooperative Federal, State, and local funding to stimulate the identification and implementation of structural and nonstructural cost-effective water conservation measures in the Yakima River Basin. Improvements in the efficiency of water delivery and use will result in improved streamflows for fish and wildlife and improve the reliability of water supplies for irrigation.

- 4. Description of Duties:** The duties or functions of the CAG are to:
 - a. Provide recommendations to the Secretary and the State on the structure and implementation of the basin conservation program.
 - b. Provide annual review of the implementation of the basin conservation program, including the applicable water conservation guidelines of the Secretary used by participating entities in preparing their individual water conservation plan.
 - c. Provide recommendations on rules, regulations, and administration to facilitate the voluntary sale and lease of water.
 - d. Provide recommendations to the Secretary and the State on the establishment of a program for measuring and reporting water diversions in the Yakima River Basin.

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Group Reports:** The CAG reports to the Secretary through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).
6. **Support:** The support services for the activities of the CAG will be provided by the Bureau of Reclamation.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years:** We estimate the annual operating costs for the CAG to be \$13,000. Federal staff support is estimated at .1 percent of one full time employee.
8. **Designated Federal Officer (DFO):** The DFO will be the Commissioner, or his or her designee that is a full-time or permanent part-time Federal employee. The DFO may call meetings as deemed appropriate. The DFO is authorized (under 41 CFR § 102-3.120), whenever he or she determines it to be in the public interest, to adjourn any CAG committee or subcommittee meeting. No meeting of the CAG will be conducted in the absence of the DFO alternate DFO. The DFO is the Deputy Area Manager, Upper Columbia Area Office.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** The CAG will meet approximately twice a year.
10. **Duration:** The CAG will remain in existence until its mission is completed or it is no longer deemed necessary. The charter will be renewed every 2 years as specified in item 11 below.
11. **Termination:** The CAG is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix, and will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of Section 9 of FACA have been complied with. The committee charter is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, the charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the FACA.
12. **Membership and Designation:** Members of the CAG will be comprised of:
 - a. One representative of the Yakima River Basin nonproratable irrigators.
 - b. One representative of the Yakima River Basin proratable irrigators.
 - c. One representative of the Yakama Nation or an appointed alternate.
 - d. One representative of the environmental community.
 - e. One representative of the Washington State University Agricultural Extension Service.

- f. One representative of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with expertise in fishery resources.

Members of the CAG will be appointed to 3-year terms. Vacancies occurring by reason of resignation, death, or failure to regularly attend meetings will be filled by the Secretary for the balance of the vacating member's term using the same method by which the original appointment was made.

The DFO of the CAG will select an individual to serve as the Facilitator for CAG meetings. The Facilitator will arrange for the meetings, serve as moderator at the meetings, and provide logistical support. The Facilitator will not be a voting member of the CAG.

CAG members, the Facilitator (if outside the agency), and working group members, while engaged in the performance of approved business away from home or their regular places of business, may be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Section 5703. The Facilitator, if not an agency employee, may also be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

- 13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
- 14. Subcommittees:** The CAG may have subcommittees, workgroups or subgroups that the agency deems necessary for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees or workgroups may not conduct business without the direction of the CAG as approved by the DFO. Any subcommittees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the agency.
- 15. Recordkeeping:** The records of the CAG, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee shall be handled in accordance with General Record Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.


Secretary of the Interior

JAN 26 2010
Date Signed

MAR 12 2010
Date Charter filed